

# Romaine Names Coordinator to Respond to Threat of Climate Change

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**Farmingville, NY** - Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine today announced the appointment of a coordinator for the Town's Climate Smart Community (CSC) Task Force to coordinate the Town's response to the threat of climate change, and specifically rising sea levels. The Supervisor named Anthony Graves, the Town's Chief Environmental Analyst, to the position as part of the Town's Climate Smart Communities Program.

Supervisor Romaine said, "The Town has taken a leadership role in the Climate Smart Communities Program since its inception. Brookhaven, with its two coastlines, is especially vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, so it is essential that we do everything we can to make our community safer. I am confident that Anthony Graves is the right person to head the Task Force and I will lend my full support to his efforts."

Graves will be tasked with overseeing both the Climate Smart Community Task Force and the Town's own internal CSC environmental team, each of which will produce an action plan for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is a partnership between local and state government to make a positive difference in our residents' lives. New York State established the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program in 2009 to provide local governments with guidance on how to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, save taxpayer dollars, and advance community goals for health and safety, economic vitality, energy independence, and quality of life. The program is free and open to all local governments in New York State.

Brookhaven was a pioneer in the Climate Smart Community program, being designated as a partner in the state-wide effort shortly after its creation in 2009. Since then, the Town has been recognized for putting the CSC pledge into action with major policy initiatives, such as the Town's single-stream recycling program and the lease of town-owned sites for solar energy panels.

The Climate Smart Communities Program is jointly sponsored by six New York State agencies: the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of State (DOS), and the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Resolutions naming members to the CSC Task Force and Internal Green Team will be offered at the October 28 Town Board meeting.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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